

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

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FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3091

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUDAPEST 1236

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NATO, PFOR, UR, CZ, HU

SUBJ: VE AND LIBERATION DAY CELEBRATIONS IN HUNGARY

1. NATO MISSIONS HERE, INCLUDING U.S. AND FRG, HAVE RECEIVED INVITATIONS FROM GDR EMBASSY TO PARTICIPATE AT COCKTAILS ON MAY 5 TO CELEBRATE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF "LIBERATION" OF GDR. SEVERAL NATO MISSIONS, BUT SO FAR NOT U.S., HAVE OFFICIAL INVITATION FROM CZECHOSLOVAK EMBASSY TO ATTEND A RECEPTION ON OCCASION OF LIBERATION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA BY SOVIET ARMY. THESE SAME MISSIONS HAVE RECEIVED INVITATIONS FROM SOVIET EMBASSY TO ATTEND ON MAY 7 SOVIET RECEPTION CELEBRATING VICTORY OVER FASCISM. FRG AMBASSADOR BUDAPEST HAS TOLD US HIS INSTRUCTIONS FROM BONN DO NOT PERMIT HIM TO ATTEND GDR COCKTAIL PARTY CELEBRATING REPEAT CELEBRATING CONFIDENTIAL

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LIBERATION OF GDR; HE IS NOW SEEKING INSTRUCTIONS FROM

BONN ON WHAT TO DO ABOUT CZECH AND SOVIET INVITATIONS,
AND HAS PROMISED TO SHARE THEM WITH ALLIED EMBASSIES.

2. U.S., BRITISH AND CANADIANS HAVE BEEN INVITED
ORALLY BY HUNGARIAN FOREIGN OFFICE TO LAY WREATHS AT
RESPECTIVE MILITARY CEMETERIES ON MAY 8, OSTENSIBLY TO
COMMEMORATE THOSE WHO FELL IN THIS COUNTRY IN WW II.
HOWEVER, PROTOCOL'S RESPONSE TO OUR QUERIES AS TO
NATURE OF THESE CEREMONIES AND REASON FOR THEM HAS
NOT PRODUCED CLEAR RESPONSE. TO CANADIANS PROTOCOL
SAID PURPOSE WAS TO COMMEMORATE END OF WAR; TO BRITISH,
VICTORY OVER FASCISM; AND TO US, 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF
DEATH OF U.S. SOLDIERS WHO FOUGHT IN EUROPE IN WW II.
DURING INFORMAL GATHERING APRIL 29 WE AGREED WITH
CANADIANS AND BRITISH TO FORWARD IDENTICAL LETTERS TO
PROTOCOL STATING OUR INTENTION TO GO AHEAD WITH LAYING
OF WREATHS WITH UNDERSTANDING THAT THIS WAS TO BE DONE
AS A SIMPLE PRIVATE COMMEMORATION SERVICE FOR OUR
SOLDIERS WHO FELL IN WW II IN HUNGARY AND NOTHING MORE.

3. CONSISTENT WITH DEPT GUIDANCE RE AVOIDING OFFENSE
TO FRG (STATE 057493), UNLESS INSTRUCTED TO CONTRARY,
WE DO NOT REPEAT NOT INTEND TO ATTEND GDR COCKTAILS
MAY 5. IF WE RECEIVE INVITATIONS TO CZECH AND SOVIET
RECEPTIONS WE SHALL COORDINATE WITH AND BE GUIDED BY
REACTIONS OF OUR FRG COLLEAGUE HERE.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: IN INTEREST OF BEING CONSISTENT
WITH GUIDANCE PROVIDED OTHER EE POSTS, WOULD APPRECIATE
DEPT'S REACTION RE ABOVE PROPOSED COURSES OF ACTION.
SINCE FONOFF HAS REQUESTED OUR REPLY RE ACCEPTANCE
WREATH-LAYING INVITATION, WE PLAN ACCEPT ON MAY 2
UNLESS DEPT INSTRUCTS US TO CONTRARY.

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